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 RUEHJM/AMCONSUL JERUSALEM PRIORITY 2301  
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 TAGS: SA, US, PREL, XF  
 SUBJECT: CODEL SOLARZ MEETING WITH INTELLIGENCE  
 - CHIEF TURKI  
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1. (S - ENTIRE TEXT.)

2. SUMMARY. SAUDI INTELLIGENCE CHIEF PRINCE TURKI GAVE CODEL SOLARZ EXPANSIVE READOUT ON TOPICAL MIDDLE EAST ISSUES ON AUGUST 12. ON IRAN-IRAQ WAR, TURKI SAW LITTLE LIKELIHOOD OF EITHER NEAR-TERM SETTLEMENT OR CLEAR VICTOR. ACCORDING TO TURKI, SAUDIS BELIEVE IRAQI DEFENSES REMAIN FORMIDABLE AND AN IRANIAN BREAKTHROUGH ON THE LAND FRONT IS INCREASINGLY UNLIKELY. HE SAID IRANIANS LACK THE ABILITY TO CLOSE THE GULF OR INTERDICT SHIPPING BUT NEVERTHELESS CAN DO "HARM" IN THE GULF. TURKI SAID SAG ALSO TAKES THREAT OF IRANIAN SUBVERSION VERY SERIOUSLY. ON ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT, TURKI HELD FORTH THAT THE U.S. SHOULD RENEW ITS EFFORTS TO FIND A PEACE SETTLEMENT AFTER THE NOVEMBER ELECTIONS. A POLICY OF "BENIGN NEGLECT" ON THE PART OF THE U.S. WOULD ONLY ENCOURAGE CERTAIN PARTIES TO THE CONFLICT TO LOOK FOR "NON-PEACEFUL" AVENUES TO SETTLE OUTSTANDING ISSUES. HE CITED THE LACK OF REFERENCE TO PALESTINIAN SELF-DETERMINATION AS THE FUNDAMENTAL FLAW OF THE OTHERWISE SOLID REAGAN INITIATIVE. TURKI SAID THAT THE SAG CANNOT FORCE EITHER THE PLO OR THE JORDANIANS TO ACCEPT AN "UNACCEPTABLE" NEGOTIATING FRAMEWORK AND SYRIA "MUST" BE INCLUDED IN ANY SETTLEMENT. ON LEBANON, TURKI

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REMAINS CONVINCED THE SYRIANS WILL WITHDRAW THEIR FORCES IMMEDIATELY AFTER AN ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL. HE SAID THE SAUDIS WILL NOT USE THEIR FINANCIAL LEVERAGE WITH THE GOL TO GAIN SYRIAN WITHDRAWAL. REGARDING THE IMPACT OF ISLAMIC FUNDAMENTALISM ON SAUDI SOCIETY, TURKI SAID THAT "MALCONTENTS" EXIST BUT THE FABRIC OF SAUDI SOCIETY IS STRONG AND THE COUNTRY CONTINUES TO BE "THIRSTY" FOR DEVELOPMENT. TURKI TOLD SOLARZ THAT THE SAG VIEWS THE CONGRESSIONAL PROPOSAL TO MOVE THE U.S. EMBASSY IN ISRAEL TO JERUSALEM WITH "GRAVE CONCERN" AND THE PASSAGE OF THE PROPOSAL WOULD DAMAGE U.S. INTERESTS IN THE REGION. TURKI ALSO EXPRESSED SAUDI CONCERN OVER POSSIBLE U.S. PROTECTIONIST MEASURES THAT WOULD ADVERSELY AFFECT THE EXPORT OF SAUDI PETROCHEMICAL PRODUCTS TO THE U.S. END SUMMARY.

3. CONGRESSMAN SOLARZ, ACCOMPANIED BY AMBASSADOR CUTLER, HFAC STAFFER ROTH AND POLOFF (NOTETAKER), MET WITH INTELLIGENCE CHIEF PRINCE TURKI FOR 90 MINUTES ON AUGUST 12 FOR WIDE-RANGING DISCUSSION ON TOPICAL MIDDLE EAST ISSUES. TURKI WAS CANDID IN HIS REMARKS AND SEEMED TO ENJOY THE RELAXED GIVE-AND-TAKE WITH THE CONGRESSMAN. ALTHOUGH TURKI REMARKED THAT HE STILL WONDERS WHETHER HE HAS "FULLY RECOVERED" FROM HIS NEAR-FATAL ACCIDENT LAST YEAR DUE TO GAS INHALATION, HE DEMONSTRATED EXCELLENT MENTAL ALACRITY. THE FOLLOWING ARE TURKI'S COMMENTS BY SUBJECT.

IRAN-IRAQ WAR

4. TURKI SAID THAT A CLEAR VICTOR IN THE CONFLICT IS UNLIKELY. HE REASONED THAT AS LONG AS THERE ARE PEOPLE WILLING TO SELL WEAPONS AND PEOPLE WILLING TO DIE, THE WAR WILL DRAG ON. HE DISMISSED THE POSSIBILITY OF A DRAMATIC IRANIAN MILITARY BREAKTHROUGH ON LAND SAYING THAT THE IRAQI FORCES ARE WELL ARMED, FRONTLINE IRAQI MORALE IS "HIGH" (AS A RESULT OF RECENT IRANIAN FAILURES), THE INTERNAL IRAQI POLITICAL SITUATION IS STABLE AND SADDAM HUSSEIN IS THE "OVERRIDING POLITICAL FORCE" IN BAGHDAD. HE ARGUED THAT EVEN IRAQ'S ECONOMIC PROBLEMS HAVE "EASED" OVER THE PAST SIX TO EIGHT MONTHS. IRAQ CONTINUES TO ASK ITS ARAB ALLIES FOR SUPPORT, ALTHOUGH THE PROPOSED PIPELINES THROUGH JORDAN AND SAUDI ARABIA WILL ALLEVIATE THE NEED FOR DIRECT OUTSIDE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.

5. TURKI SAID THERE HAVE BEEN RECENT INDICATIONS OF

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"DIFFERENCES OF OPINION" AMONG IRANIAN OFFICIALS ON THE CONDUCT OF THE WAR. ALTHOUGH HE IS ENCOURAGED BY TEHRAN'S APPARENT WILLINGNESS TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH THE GCC STATES, HE IS STILL NOT SANGUINE ABOUT THE PROSPECTS OF A NEAR-TERM SETTLEMENT. HE SAID THAT SINCE SADDAM HUSSEIN REPRESENTS THE BA'ATHIST SYSTEM IN BAGHDAD, THE IRANIANS ARE COMMITTED TO OVERTHROWING THE ENTIRE SYSTEM, NOT JUST ONE MAN. NEVERTHELESS, TURKI SAID THAT ALTHOUGH KHOMEINI IS STUBBORN HE HAS DEMONSTRATED A "WILLINGNESS" TO COMPROMISE (TURKI MADE REFERENCE TO COMPROMISES ON INTERNAL ISSUES).

6. TURKI SAID THAT WHILE THE IRANIANS DO NOT HAVE THE MILITARY CAPABILITY TO CLOSE THE GULF OR SUCCESSFULLY INTERDICT SHIPPING, THEY DO HAVE A DEFINITE ABILITY TO DO

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HARM. HE CITED THE INHERENT VULNERABILITY OF OIL FACILITIES AND OTHER GULF TARGETS BUT ADDED THAT THE IRANIANS COULDN'T SUSTAIN AN EMBARGO OF SAUDI PORTS. ALTHOUGH TURKI ADMITTED THAT "SOME ELEMENTS" IN THE REGION CONSIDER A VICTORY BY EITHER PARTY AS THREATENING, HE SAID THAT SAUDI ARABIA'S IMPROVED RELATIONS WITH BAGHDAD PRE-DATE THE OUTBREAK OF HOSTILITIES IN 1980. HE SAID THE PRESENT SAUDI-IRAQI RELATIONSHIP IS NOT SIMPLY A RESULT OF THE IRAQ-IRAN CONFLICT.

7. RESPONDING TO SOLARZ' QUESTION AS TO THE EXACT NATURE OF THE THREAT TO SAUDI ARABIA OF AN IRANIAN VICTORY, TURKI SAID THE THREAT COULD TAKE MANY FORMS. HE ARGUED THAT THE TEHRAN LEADERSHIP VIEWS THE SAUDI GOVERNMENT AS THE "MANIFESTATION OF EVIL" IN THE ISLAMIC WORLD AND IS CURRENTLY SENDING EMISSARIES TO AFRICA AND OTHER THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES WITH THE MESSAGE THAT THE SAUDI GOVERNMENT IS A "HERETICAL" REGIME. HE ALSO SAID THAT IF IRAN EMERGES VICTORIOUS FROM THE WAR WITH A MILITARY CAPABILITY (SOMETHING HE THOUGHT VERY UNLIKELY), TEHRAN WOULD CLEARLY DEMONSTRATE THIS ABILITY TO ITS NEIGHBORING STATES AS A MEANS OF "PRESSURE." HE CLAIMED THE SAG CONSIDERS THE THREAT OF IRANIAN SUBVERSION MORE LIKELY AND SAID "WE MUST TAKE THIS THREAT VERY SERIOUSLY."

8. IN RESPONSE TO SOLARZ' QUESTION AS TO WHETHER A SAUDI SUNNI FUNDAMENTALIST WOULD MORE READILY IDENTIFY WITH AN IRANIAN SHI'A OR AN IRAQI BA'ATHIST, TURKI CONTENDED THAT A SAUDI FUNDAMENTALIST WOULD HAVE "GRAVE MISGIVINGS" ABOUT COOPERATING WITH A SHI'A HERETIC. HE MADE AN ANALOGY TO THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN CATHOLICISM AND CALVINISM AND SAID THAT SAUDI SUNNIS REGARD IRANIAN SHI'A AS "OUTSIDE THE PALE." TURKI TOLD SOLARZ THAT SAUDI FUNDAMENTALISTS DO NOT REGARD THE BAGHDAD REGIME AS A PROPER MUSLIM GOVERNMENT BECAUSE OF ITS SECULARISM. HE CONCLUDED THAT ALTHOUGH SUNNI FUNDAMENTALISTS IN SAUDI ARABIA HAVE HOPE FOR THE SALVATION OF IRAQI SECULARISTS, THEY HAVE NO SUCH HOPE FOR IRANIAN SHI'A.

#### ARAB-ISRAELI DISPUTE

9. TURKI SAID THAT EVEN THOUGH THE CHANCES OF SUCCESS MAY APPEAR MARGINAL, THE U.S. SHOULD RENEW ITS EFFORTS TO RESOLVE THE ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT AFTER THE NOVEMBER ELECTIONS. HE SAID THAT THE SAUDIS AND OTHER ARABS VIEW THE U.S. AS THE PRINCIPAL PLAYER -- "EVEN THE SOLE PLAYER." TURKI SAID THE MAJOR DEFICIENCY OF THE REAGAN INITIATIVE WAS THE LACK OF REFERENCE TO PALESTINIAN SELF-DETERMINATION, WHICH WOULD COMPLETELY "TURN AROUND" THE PERCEPTION OF THE U.S. IN THE ARAB WORLD. HE SAID U.S. CREDIBILITY AMONG ARABS IS VERY LOW BUT ADMITTED THAT THERE ARE MORE SERIOUS PROBLEMS WITHIN THE ARAB AND ISRAELI RANKS WHICH SERVE AS OBSTACLES TO PEACE. ON ISRAEL, HE CITED A RECENT TREND TOWARD "CONSERVATISM OF VIEWS" THAT HAS MADE FLEXIBILITY ON POSITIONS UNLIKELY,

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PARTICULARLY AFTER THE ELECTION AND CURRENT IMPASSE IN ISRAELI POLITICS. HE SIMILARLY CITED ARAB FRACTIOUSNESS AS INHIBITING PROGRESS ON THE PEACE FRONT. "CONSEQUENTLY," HE SAID, "WE ALL LOOK TO THE U.S."

10. TURKI SAID THAT THE SAG IS WELL AWARE OF THE LIMITATIONS OF THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION IN DEALING WITH

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MIDDLE EAST ISSUES, BUT THE PROSPECT OF A MONDALE ADMINISTRATION IS "PARTICULARLY WORRYING." SOLARZ COUNTERED THAT THERE HAS ALWAYS BEEN CONTINUITY IN THE FUNDAMENTALS OF U.S. FOREIGN POLICY AND SUCH WOULD BE THE CASE UNDER EITHER A REAGAN OR MONDALE ADMINISTRATION. TURKI SAID THAT THE PERCEPTION IN THE ARAB WORLD HAS BEEN THAT THE U.S. "HAS MOVED CLOSER TO THE ISRAELI SIDE" SINCE 1967, AND WHERE THE U.S. STANDS AFTER THE ELECTIONS WILL BE "EXTREMELY IMPORTANT." AS TO THE MODALITIES OF NEGOTIATIONS, TURKI SAID IT IS "UP TO THE U.S." AS IS THE EXTENT OF SOVIET INVOLVEMENT IN AN EVENTUAL SOLUTION. COMPARING STEP-BY-STEP AND THE COMPREHENSIVE APPROACHES, TURKI SAID THAT THE STEP-BY-STEP WAS SUCCESSFUL IN THE PAST WHEN "CERTAIN ACTORS WERE ON THE STAGE." HE COMMENTED FAVORABLY ABOUT THE TALENTS OF HENRY KISSINGER IN BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER.

11. REGARDING SAUDI LEVERAGE OVER ARAB PLAYERS, TURKI SAID THAT THE SAG IS COMMITTED TO CERTAIN PRINCIPLES, THE MOST FUNDAMENTAL OF WHICH IS THAT THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION SHOULD BE HANDLED BY THE PALESTINIANS. TURKI SAID THEY ARE THE ONLY ONES WHO CAN ENDORSE HUSSEIN'S NEGOTIATING ON THEIR BEHALF AND "WE DO NOT PRETEND TO BE ABLE TO FORCE THE PALESTINIANS TO ACCEPT A SOLUTION." REFERRING TO THE NEAR AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE PLO AND THE JORDANIANS CONCERNING JORDANIAN PARTICIPATION IN NEGOTIATIONS (WHEN ARAFAT WAS OVERRULED IN KUWAIT), TURKI SAID "WE TOLD THE PLO THAT COOPERATION WITH JORDAN SEEMED TO BE IN PLO INTERESTS AT THAT TIME." TURKI BLAMED THE FAILURE OF A PLO-JORDANIAN AGREEMENT ON A "GAP IN PERCEPTION" BY THE PARTIES; NAMELY, THE PLO, JORDAN AND THE U.S., WHICH LED THEM TO FAIL TO TAKE THE POSITION OF SYRIA INTO ACCOUNT. HE SAID THAT SYRIA HAS TREMENDOUS INFLUENCE OVER PALESTINIAN AFFAIRS AND HAS ALWAYS WANTED TO HAVE A HAND IN A SETTLEMENT. TURKI SAID HE BELIEVED THE SYRIANS WOULD MAKE A "TREMENDOUS EFFORT" TO PREVENT ANY SOLUTION OF WHICH THEY WERE NOT A PART. HE ADDED THAT IT IS "TERRIBLY IMPORTANT" FOR THE U.S. TO REESTABLISH CREDIBILITY WITH SYRIANS. IN RESPONSE TO A SOLARZ QUESTION, TURKI SAID IT IS NOT UP TO THE SAUDIS TO ACCEPT OR NOT ACCEPT REESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS BETWEEN TEL AVIV AND MOSCOW AS THE ISRAELI PRICE FOR GOING TO GENEVA.

12. TURKI SAID THAT IF THE PEACE PROCESS IS BELIEVED TO BE MORIBUND, ANOTHER WAR IS POSSIBLE, AND WHO WOULD PARTICIPATE WOULD DEPEND ON THE CIRCUMSTANCES. IN RESPONSE TO SOLARZ' QUESTION AS TO WHETHER THE SAUDIS WOULD PARTICIPATE IN SUCH A WAR, TURKI REPLIED "YES, UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES." HE SAID THAT IF SYRIANS WERE CONFIDENT OF FULL ARAB SUPPORT THEY WOULD CERTAINLY BECOME INVOLVED IN ANOTHER FRAY WITH ISRAEL. TURKI EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT THE SOCIAL AND POLITICAL UNREST THAT WOULD RESULT FROM THE CONTINUED PLIGHT OF THE PALESTINIANS. HE SAID A DISENFRANCHISED POPULATION SEEKING AN IDENTITY BUT UNABLE TO ACHIEVE IT IS AN INHERENTLY DESTABILIZING FORCE THAT PROVIDES A POOL OF AVAILABLE HUMAN RESOURCES FOR TERRORISM.

13. TURKI SAID THAT IF THE U.S. SITS BACK NOW, NOT ONLY WILL THE U.S. LOSE ALL CREDIBILITY BUT CONFLICT WILL BECOME THE ORDER OF THE DAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST. HE SAID THAT NONE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONFLICT, INCLUDING THE ISRAELIS, ARE HAPPY WITH THE STATUS QUO AND A U.S. POLICY OF "BENIGN NEGLECT" WILL ONLY LEAD PEOPLE TO LOOK FOR NON-

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PEACEFUL AVENUES TO RESOLVE DIFFERENCES. IN THE EVENT A NEW INITIATIVE IS TABLED, HE SAID THAT THE SAG IS UNABLE TO SUPPORT JORDANIAN INVOLVEMENT IN NEGOTIATIONS WITHOUT A PLO ENDORSEMENT.

PLO-LEBANON-SYRIA

14. TURKI SAID THE SAG WOULD LIKE TO SEE ALL FOREIGN FORCES WITHDRAWN FROM LEBANON. HE REMAINS CONVINCED THAT THE SYRIANS WILL WITHDRAW IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE ISRAELIS BECAUSE DAMASCUS WILL HAVE MORE PROBLEMS IF SYRIAN TROOPS REMAIN. HE ADDED THAT THE ARAB LEAGUE MANDATE THAT SANCTIONS SYRIAN TROOP PRESENCE WOULD EXPIRE IMMEDIATELY AND THE LEBANESE WOULD ASK THEM OUT. TURKI ADMITTED THAT THE LEBANESE HAD MISSED OPPORTUNITIES IN THE PAST TO INVITE SYRIAN WITHDRAWAL BUT BELIEVED THERE WOULD BE A DEFINITE "ARAB OPINION" THIS TIME THAT WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR THE SYRIANS TO IGNORE. TURKI SAID THE SAG CAN'T "TELL" THE LEBANESE TO OUST THE SYRIANS AND, THEREFORE, WILL NOT WITHHOLD AID UNTIL SYRIAN TROOPS DEPART BECAUSE THE GOL NEEDS ALL THE HELP AND SUPPORT OF ITS FRIENDS TO OVERCOME ITS PROBLEMS. HE REITERATED HIS BELIEF THAT THE SYRIANS WOULD WITHDRAW AS LONG AS SYRIAN SECURITY INTEREST IN LEBANON WERE PROTECTED.

15. TURKI TOLD SOLARZ THAT ALTHOUGH THE PLO SUFFERED MILITARILY IN LEBANON THE PALESTINIAN CAUSE GAINED MORE SYMPATHY AND SUPPORT AS A RESULT OF THE LEBANESE TRAGEDY. REGARDING INTERNAL PLO DIVISIVENESS, TURKI SAID THE ORGANIZATION WOULD HAVE TO RESOLVE ITS OWN PROBLEMS IN ORDER TO BE ACCEPTED AS SPOKESMAN OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE. IN RESPONSE TO AMBASSADOR'S QUESTION ABOUT REPORTS OF PALESTINIANS RETURNING TO LEBANON, TURKI SAID HE WOULD NOT BE SURPRISED IF PALESTINIANS ARE GOING BACK TO LEBANON. HE SAID THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE HAVE TO GO SOMEWHERE, AND IF THEY DECIDE TO RETURN TO LEBANON THE GOL AND PLO WILL HAVE TO COME TO AN UNDERSTANDING. TURKI SAID THAT THE WIDESPREAD VIEW THAT ARAFAT HAS TOTAL "COMMAND AND CONTROL" OF THE PLO IS WRONG. HE ARGUED THAT AFTER THE PLO EXODUS FROM LEBANON MUCH OF THE REMAINING PLO INFRASTRUCTURE WAS LEFT IN SYRIA, WHICH RESULTED IN EVEN GREATER SYRIAN LEVERAGE AND INFLUENCE OVER PLO ELEMENTS. TURKI SAID ONE OF ARAFAT'S MAJOR DEFICIENCIES IS THAT HE IS IMPULSIVE AND DOES NOT SUFFICIENTLY CONSULT WITH OTHERS IN HIS ORGANIZATION, EVEN WITHIN FATAH.

16. TURKI SAID U.S. CREDIBILITY DID SUFFER AFTER THE MARINE WITHDRAWAL FROM LEBANON, ALTHOUGH THERE WAS GENERAL UNDERSTANDING AS TO WHY THE U.S. PULLED OUT. NEVERTHELESS, THERE WAS A LETDOWN AMONG FRIENDS OF THE U.S. IN THE REGION AND SOME SERIOUS QUESTIONING ABOUT THE ACTUAL DEPTH OF THE U.S. COMMITMENT.

SOVIET UNION

17. TURKI SAID THAT SINCE WORLD WAR II, THE SOVIET UNION HAS SET THE EXAMPLE OF INVADING OTHER COUNTRIES MILITARILY. "THIS GIVES US PAUSE IN OUR THINKING REGARDING MOSCOW'S CAPABILITIES AND DETERMINATION." HE SAID AFGHANISTAN IS THE FIRST SOVIET COLONIAL INVASION AND MOSCOW IS NOW MORE OF A THREAT THAN IN THE PAST, WHEN SOVIET TACTICS WERE PRIMARILY PROPAGANDA AND SUBVERSION. TURKI DISMISSED ISRAELI CLAIMS THAT TEL AVIV SERVES AS A REGIONAL COUNTERWEIGHT TO SOVIET MILITARY DESIGNS IN THE MIDDLE EAST AS "SELF-SERVING." HE SAID U.S. DEFENSE PLANNERS COULD NOT

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SERIOUSLY BELIEVE THAT THREE MILLION ISRAELIS DETER THE SOVIETS.

ISLAMIC FUNDAMENTALISM IN SAUDI ARABIA

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18. CONGRESSMAN SOLARZ ASKED TURKI FOR HIS IMPRESSION OF THE IMPACT OF ISLAMIC FUNDAMENTALISM ON SAUDI SOCIETY. THE INTELLIGENCE CHIEF RESPONDED THAT SINCE SAUDI SOCIETY HAS GONE THROUGH A TREMENDOUS UPHEAVAL IN A SHORT PERIOD OF TIME IT IS DIFFICULT NOT TO IMAGINE THE EXISTENCE OF SOME "MALCONTENTS." HE SAID THAT NO MATTER HOW RELIGIOUS THE UNDERPINNINGS OF THE SAUDI GOVERNMENT, THERE WILL ALWAYS BE THOSE WHO BELIEVE GOVERNMENT ADHERENCE TO ISLAM IS NOT SUFFICIENT. HE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT THE FABRIC OF SAUDI SOCIETY IS "RESILIENT" AND THE SOCIETY AS A WHOLE REMAINS "THIRSTY" FOR DEVELOPMENT. HE SAID THERE ARE NO "IVORY TOWERS" IN SAUDI ARABIA AND THE NATIVE "MAJLIS" SYSTEM IS OPEN AND ACCOMMODATES CHANGE. HE FAULTED OTHER COUNTRIES THAT HAVE FAILED BECAUSE THEY TRIED TO APPLY CULTURALLY FOREIGN SYSTEMS OF LAW AND GOVERNMENT. HE CONCLUDED THAT THE SUCCESS OF THE SAUDI SYSTEM WILL BE DEPENDENT ON THE GOVERNMENT'S ABILITY TO MAINTAIN THE COUNTRY'S ISLAMIC ESSENCE WHILE CONTINUING ITS PROGRESS TOWARD DEVELOPMENT AND MODERNIZATION.

19. AT THE END OF THE DISCUSSION, CONGRESSMAN SOLARZ ASKED PRINCE TURKI IF HE HAD ANY QUESTIONS THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO ASK. TURKI SAID THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO REGISTER HIS GRAVE CONCERN ABOUT THE PENDING CONGRESSIONAL RESOLUTION THAT RECOMMENDS THE TRANSFER OF THE U.S. EMBASSY IN ISRAEL FROM TEL AVIV TO JERUSALEM. TURKI SAID U.S. INTERESTS WOULD BE SEVERELY DAMAGED BY THE PASSAGE OF THIS RESOLUTION AND U.S. CREDIBILITY IN THE EYES OF THE ARAB WORLD WOULD BE COMPLETELY UNDERMINED. CONGRESSMAN SOLARZ GAVE TURKI AN UPDATE ON THE CURRENT STATUS OF THE LEGISLATION. TURKI ALSO EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT PROTECTIONIST EFFORTS UNDERWAY IN THE U.S. THAT WOULD ADVERSELY AFFECT THE EXPORT OF SAUDI PETROCHEMICALS TO U.S. MARKETS. SOLARZ PROMISED TO LOOK INTO ANY PROPOSED LEGISLATION THAT WOULD HAVE SUCH AN IMPACT ON THE SAUDI PETROCHEMICAL INDUSTRY.

20. CODEL HAS NOT CLEARED THIS CABLE.

21. BEIRUT, KUWAIT MINIMIZE CONSIDERED.

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END OF MESSAGE

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